

# OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

PRESENT STATE,

OF THE LATE

Dr. WARD'S MEDICINES.

To which is added an Account (from Experience) of their  
real VIRTUES and EFFICACY.

Addressed to the Public, by J. WHITE, Chymist.

**T**HE surprising efficacy of the late Dr. Ward's medicines, by him administer'd, when other means for the cure of diseases had been tried in vain, is I believe, very generally known. His book of receipts for preparing and compounding the above medicines, he bequeath'd at his death to John Page, Esq; of Watergate-House, an intimate friend of the Doctor's, a man of very ample fortune, and a gentleman of the most approved generosity and goodness of heart. This gentleman immediately after Mr. Ward's decease (having in view the common good of mankind) considered of the best method by which these medicines might in future be genuinely prepared and come at by the lowest of his Majesty's subjects. But although he was possessed of the receipts themselves, yet he acknowledges in a pamphlet to the public, that without the assistance of certain ingenious chymists who had prepared the medicines for Mr. Ward, his intentions would have been frustrated; many inaccuracies appearing in the transcript of those receipts, and many things requiring that explanation which could only be given by those accustomed to prepare them.

In the latter end of the year 1762, his Majesty, upon the Application of Mr. Page, was graciously pleas'd to grant unto John White (then of the parish of St. Mary-le-Bone) chymist, a pension of 300*l. per annum*, during his natural life, to the end, he might not suffer by the publication of the late Dr. Ward's principle medicinal secrets, and also to encourage him to give his assistance towards causing the said medicines to be prepared in the most genuine manner, and dispensed to the public at very moderate prices. Receipts for preparing and compounding some of the above medicines were accordingly published, attested by my father the aforesaid John White, Mr. D' Osterman, (another person to whom his Majesty was graciously pleas'd to grant 200*l. per annum* on the same account) and the price of the medicines reduced so low, as to amaze many persons who had been accustomed to take them in Mr. Ward's life-time, and almost to make them discredit the identity of them: and no wonder, when the White Drop which Mr. Ward sold for a Guinea (and which medicine my father discovered and alone constantly prepared for him) was reduced to the Price of One Shilling.

The consequence of publishing those receipts was, that numbers of persons immediately set to work to prepare the medicines; but without success: for although they followed the process set down, as exactly as possible, yet being unused to my father's method of working, and unacquainted with his particular systems, they found themselves baffled in the operative parts, especially in preparing the White Drop, which though some had proceeded with so far, as to be in outward appearance perfected, and that it would whiten water, yet it was found to be inefficacious, and (upon examination) very imperfectly prepared.

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In regard to another of the medicines, called *Essence for the Head-Ach*, I am satisfied Mr. D'Osterman must have mistook when he gave the receipt for preparing it; as I myself have had it applied to my head by Mr. Ward, and have frequently seen it at his house, of a rich golden colour; whereas that prepared by Mr. D'Osterman was clear and colourless as water; nor had it the proposed effect: it might be efficacious in taking down swellings, for which purpose I believe Mr. Ward made use of it, or something like it—As this preparation then, did not answer the expectation (being looked upon as little better than a commixture of spirits of wine and camphor) my father afterwards prepared the *Essence for the Head-ach*; and though I do not absolutely pronounce it to be Mr. Ward's *Essence*, yet it is a most noble remedy not only for the head-ach, and other pains, but in many other cases I have (by experience) found it infallible.—This receipt then remains in my hands only, nor will I communicate it unless to my own family.

Another medicine, the receipt for preparing which was given by Mr. D'Osterman, as *Mr. Ward's Liquid Sweat*, he must have been likewise much mistaken in, at least with regard to the dose; for I appeal to any gentleman of the faculty, or any other person who has studied the medicinal art, whether thirty or even sixty drops of such a composition, can be supposed to raise a sweat: no wonder then, that this medicine came into disrepute, by its not performing the expected operation; and indeed how should it (if even given to the quantity of a drachm) being only an infusion of saffron, opium in bits, salt of tartar and cinnamon in spirits of wine and white wine, jumbled together three or four times a day in a bottle and then filtered.—The preparation of this medicine was likewise given up to my father, and by him greatly improved, as well by the addition of an ingredient, as in the process; since which its efficacy has been happily proved both by my father and myself, as I have never found any fever which did not (by a proper administration of it) submit to its force, and I have lately had three very severe ones to encounter with, two of the putrid, and one of the bilious kind.

As to the other medicines published in Mr. Page's pamphlet, I shall say nothing more than, that I hope those who may think proper to prepare them from the receipts given, will bestow all necessary pains and labour in the thorough purifying the ingredients therein used, and in the levigation of the glass of antimony for preparing the red pill; the necessity for which is too obvious to need my observations upon.

Having thus far shewn the necessity for a person being more fully instructed in the process of making the *White Drop* (the principal medicine) than they can be from the receipt given, and the erroneous receipts and process for preparing two others, I leave it to the public to determine with themselves, what confidence they ought to repose in medicines prepared from such receipts, without the least further instruction from the person who used to prepare them; nor is there any one, except myself, properly instructed by my late father in the preparation of these medicines; yet those now sold (as the late Dr. Ward's) under the direction of Sir John Fielding and Mr. Dingley, are not prepared by me; and so little modesty or conscience have those gentlemen, that they have repeatedly since the death of my father, and Mr. D'Osterman, suffered their names to appear to an advertisement in the public papers, setting forth, that the late Dr. Ward's Medicines are to be had at Mr. Parker's, book and printer in Cornhill, and at Mr. Marthe's, bookseller at Charing Cross, and no where else in London, prepared by those people who prepared them in Mr. Ward's life-time, and to whom his Majesty, for the public good, now allows pensions on account of said medicines, which they know to be absolutely false.

Another advertiser of Dr. Ward's Medicines, I think I need say little about.—He continues to prepare them, at the request of the Doctor's footman (Mr. Moreton), who he tells the public is dead, and that he is executor to him, and for whom he had the Direction of the medicines ever since

since Mr. Ward's death.—'Tis strange, that so *noted a Chymist* should be obliged to lug the Doctor's dead servant in by the head and shoulders, to inform the public afterwards that he prepared the medicines in Mr. Ward's life-time — But what medicines does he mean? The *White Drop* he shewed me on his counter he owned was of my father's preparing.—Others may very probably be the remainder of the stock left at Mr. Ward's decease (for the Doctor was pretty well stock'd, I believe, at the time of his death, with such medicines as would keep); and I have the greatest reason to believe this is the case, as our advertiser acknowledged to me, that he has no receipt for preparing a supply of that medicine, which is called in his bill of particulars, the *Fever Remedy*, when his present stock shall be exhausted.—Besides this *curious* advertisement, the following words are painted on his window-shutters: *By order of the executors, all the late Dr. Ward's medicines sold here.*—Does he mean the executors of the late Joshua Ward, Esq; of Whitehall? or does he mean, by order of himself and the other executor to the Doctor's footman? If he means by order of the late Dr. Ward's executors, and those gentlemen have really given him such orders, I must beg leave to remind them of their having given two hundred pounds to my father, on consideration of his not publishing and selling their late uncle's medicines (and particularly the *White Drop*) for the first six months after Mr. Ward's decease.

I shall now proceed to give an account (from experience) of the virtues and efficacy of those medicines, commonly called Dr. Ward's, as prepared by my father and myself.

#### WHITE DROP. [*One Shilling per Phial.*]

These innocent, yet most efficacious Drops, are well known to be one of the greatest antiscorbutics and best purifier of the blood, in practice.—They do great service in the Leprosy and King's Evil; and will bring away worms from children; are used with success in the St. Anthony's Fire; and other inflammatory disorders; are a great antivenereal; and are excellent in removing obstructions, and promoting regularity in the female sex.

Outwardly applied (but not wantonly) they cure pimples and other eruptions, either by sometimes wetting the cork with the Drops, and touching the part affected therewith; or putting a few drops in a glass of water, and dipping in it a piece of linen rag, with which the affected part must be dabb'd.

The method of inward application.—Put two drops into a gill glass and fill it about two-thirds with pump or spring-water, drink it going to bed: do this three nights successively, and then omit three nights; continuing this method till the bottle is finished, or as long as the case may require.

#### ESSENCE for the HEAD-ACH, &c. [*One Shilling per Phial.*]

It gives almost immediate ease in pains of the Head, or any part of the Limbs, by pouring a little of it into the palm of the hand, and holding it very close on the part affected till it is dry; repeat it if the pain is not relieved by the first application. With this Essence I have cured several very bad Sore Throats, by applying a piece of rag dipt in it to the throat at night going to bed, and have found the complaint entirely removed, by its being left on till next morning.—My wife, (just before I left Ham-Common) had a violent Sore Throat, insomuch that she could not swallow, or even turn her head without very great pain, but by a plentiful application of this Essence, a great discharge was occasioned from her throat, and the complaint happily removed in three days time. Several other instances of this kind I could mention.—Properly applied in Tumours, I have never known it fail, and could give many instances of it's surprising effects.

#### LIQUID SWEAT. [*One Shilling.*]

This is an excellent remedy against Fevers, Vomitings, Gripes, Complaints of the Head, Difficulty of Breathing, Hoarseness and Weaknesses peculiar to the fair sex.—It will do great service in the Gout and Rheumatism; and is a great strengthener and restorative.—It is very mild in its operation.



operation, and seldom, till towards the morning, causes a gentle perspiration, which must then be encouraged, and care taken not to catch cold.

The dose is from one-third to half, or a whole bottle in a glass of ale or white wine, going to bed.—The patient may drink after it a draught of warm white wine-whey, if he thinks proper; but it is not absolutely necessary.

#### RED PILL S. [Six in a Box, Six-Pence.]

They are excellent for Boils and ulcerous Sores; are very efficacious in rheumatic and other pains in the limbs; are beneficial to children and young people; being taken in the Spring and Fall, they keep them free from Worms, Coughs, Eruptions, and other Disorders, which children are usually subject to, by carrying off all internal foulnesses, and preserving them healthy; and are found to be a powerful remedy (if continued to be taken every second or third day for some time) in most stubborn Chronic Cases.

Bruiſe the Pill and take it in a spoonful of small liquid on an empty stomach, and when it begins to operate, take about a quarter of a pint of thin water-gruel, or warm water between each motion. It works sometimes upwards, sometimes downwards (according to the nature and seat of the disorder), and frequently by sweat, which must be encouraged by keeping yourself warm, and drinking as above.—Milk, greens, and fruit must be avoided on the days you take it.

I have known this Pill in some constitutions (as is the case with me) to have no visible operation, yet to have done great service as a powerful alterative.

#### SACK DROP. [Six Pence.]

This is much of the same nature with the Pill, though it mostly works upwards only, and is found to cleanse the stomach more effectually than the vomits usually given; nor does it occasion uncommon reachings.—It is of great service (as well as the Pill) in complaints of the head and eyes, occasioned (as they sometimes are) by a foul stomach. The bottle is a full dose for a grown person, and is to be treated during the time of its operating, in the same manner as the Pill.—

#### SWEATING POWDER. [Six-Pence.]

These Powders are most excellent in the Gout, Rheumatism, Pains in the body and limbs, and also in Coughs and other Disorders proceeding from Colds.—

The Powder is to be taken in a glass of beer, white wine, or other Liquid: Let the patient lie between blankets, and encourage the sweat by lying still, keeping warm, and drinking now-and-then moderately of white wine-whey, or any other weak warm liquor: but drink nothing for the first half hour after taking the Powder.

N. B. In stubborn cases the Red Pill taken between the days of taking the Powders, greatly facilitate, and scarce ever fail of perfecting a cure.—

Those who are not used to, or cannot very well bear opiates, may begin with half a Powder, and encrease gradually to the whole dose, as they find them agree with their constitution.

The above Medicines are to be had, sealed with the Author's Crest, at his House, No. 12, in *Strutton-Grounds, Westminster*; and are sold also, by his appointment, at Mr. Crowder's, Bookseller, in *Pater-noster-Row*; where Country Booksellers and others may be supplied wholesale, with a large allowance: And likewise sold retail, at Mr. Southern's, Bookseller and Stationer, in *St. James's-Street*; at Mr. Eaton's, Spatterdash-maker to his Majesty, in *Chancery-Lane*; at Mr. Taylor's Operator for the Teeth, in *Devonshire-street*, near *Bishopsgate Church*; and no where else in London.

Any person desirous of consulting Mr. White will be duly answered, by directing to him (post-paid) as above.

\* \* Be careful to ask for those medicines, prepared by the son of the I White; and observe that his Crest be on the seal.

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